Birth Control.

289. *MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether there are medical officers in the State who have made a special study of the subject of birth control and are competent to give the necessary instruction in regard to it and to conduct a birth control clinic?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Durbar Physician*): No.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): May I know whether birth control is necessary?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): That is a matter of opinion.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the Government are aware of the resolution passed by the All-India Women's Conference held in Trivandrum recently regarding the establishment of birth control clinics?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): They are.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): Sir, in view of that, may I know whether Government will consider the matter?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): The matter was considered by Government. Medical opinion was taken on the matter and Government after consideration decided that no action need be taken at present.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether Government considered the matter before the passing of that resolution or after?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): The Government's consideration was before the Conference passed the resolution.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know, Sir, on what considerations the Government came to the conclusion that the question need not be gone into? Was it on account of medical reasons or sentimental considerations?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): The Medical Department gave their views and Government then decided the question.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know, Sir, from the member what the opinion of the Medical Department was on the matter?

MR JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): I have not got the information here. But I think that the department stated that the time was not now opportune.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know the reasons which weighed with the Medical Department for stating that the time was not opportune? May I know whether considerations other than medical weighed with them in saying that the time has not yet come?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): That is the opinion of the department.

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MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the Medical Department is competent to give an opinion regarding the opening of birth control clinics in view of the fact that they admit in the answer to the question that there is no one in the department who has made a study of this question?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): There are members in the Medical Department who have made *a study* of this question. All that is stated here is that we have not made *a special study* of the question. The Medical Department has studied the subject in a general way.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether any person in the Medical Department has studied the question in relation to the problem of population?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): We take up the medical side of the question. The economic side of the question is one for the Government to decide upon.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Is the member aware that the learned Census Commissioner in the Census Report for 1931 suggested the desirability of introducing birth control?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): I take the member's information as correct.

Public subscriptions for Malaria Relief Fund.

290. * **MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla III*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they had given permission to the Inspector of Ayurveda and the Principal of the Ayurveda College to collect public subscriptions from the grant-in-aid Ayurveda *Vaidyans* and the public bodies, such as Veerakerala Gymkhana, Vanitha Sangham, Vaikuntam Estate, etc., for malaria relief works; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether the Inspector of Ayurveda and the Principal of the Ayurveda College have published duly the statement of accounts thereof?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) No.

(*b*) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (*a*).

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know whether the Government are now aware that the Inspector of Ayurveda and the Principal of the Ayurveda College have actually collected public subscription for malaria relief works?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, sir.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know whether those officers were competent to raise public subscriptions under the rules, without obtaining the previous sanction of Government?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The members of the Medical Department collected subscriptions with the permission of Government. And the members of the Ayurveda Department thought that they could also do the same as it was for a good cause.

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